

Partnering for Success: A Peanut CRSP project in Ghana, West Africa.

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A USAID funded Peanut CRSP project on pest management in peanuts was initiated in 1996 with North Carolina State University as the lead U.S. institution and the Crops Research Institute in Kumasi, Ghana and the Savanna Agricultural Research Institute in Tamale, Ghana as the host country institutions. The initial focus of the program was to investigate the limiting factors of insects and diseases on peanut production in both northern and southern Ghana. The project rapidly expanded to include weeds, fertility, nematodes, planting and row patterns, improved cultivars, seed storage and other production components. Several key components of this project have led to the successful adoption of research findings. First was the placement of research trials in farmers' fields as well as at research institutes. Extension workers were actively involved in the process of monitoring and evaluating research plots. The final, and perhaps most important component, was the constant involvement of the farmers from the local villages. They were able to participate and readily grasp new production techniques. The overall results from this project, which includes the incorporation of improved cultivars, disease management with local soaps, and planting in rows with good weed management has produced a doubling of yields on a per acre basis and increased production acreage. Socio-economic studies have documented that this elevated enhancement of peanut production has had positive benefits for local villages.